

layers, but to advance prosecution, the claims were amended to explicitly recite this feature. In addition, these claims were amended to clarify the reflective nature of the second layer. Claim 3 was amended to clarify the second layer. No new matter is added and no new issues are raised as the structure of the layers was inherent in the laminate previously claimed.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 4,663,874 (Sano) in view of the cumulative teachings of Clark, Carroll et al, Bump Jr. et al. and USP 5,226,792 (Darago).

Sano discloses a magnetically attachable sign, which has means to allow enclosed air or water to be released from between the sign and the body to which it is attached. The sign carries an advertisement or sticker. Sano does not teach or suggest a laminate having a light-active second layer, which is reflective and has signaling properties.

None of Bump, Carroll, Clark, or Darago remedies the defects of Sano.

Bump discloses a foldable banner having pockets in which magnets may be embedded for adherence to the body of a car. Bump does not teach or suggest a *laminate* having a reflective layer, carrier layer, and magnetic layer. Bump does not remedy the defects of Sano.

Carroll utilizes a permanent magnet (22) attached to the back of a sign. The magnet appears to be in the form of a strip. Carroll does not teach or suggest a *laminate* or a *magnetic* layer wherein the magnetic layer is the same size and shape as the reflective layer. Carroll does not remedy the defects of Sano.

Clark discloses a magnetic device, which can be temporarily adhered to an automobile structure. The magnetic device is a solid device, which is removable with a special removal tool. Initials, insignia, symbols, and the like may be printed, embossed, engraved, or affixed to the top of the device. Hence Clark utilizes a rigid magnet, which is not flexible. Clark does not teach or suggest a *laminate* having a reflective layer, carrier layer, and magnetic layer. Clark does not remedy the defects of Sano.

Darago discloses a sign, which is attached to a window of the car. The bottom of the sign passenger may contain magnets sewn into the sign. Darago does not teach or suggest a flexible *laminate* having a reflective layer, carrier layer, and magnetic layer in accordance with the claimed invention. Darago does not remedy the defects of Sano.

One of skill in the art would not have modified Sano based on the secondary references absent the hindsight afforded by the claimed invention. In view of the above, the withdrawal of the instant rejection is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the instant rejections and objections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Thrice Amended) A flexible laminate, comprising:
 - a flexible carrier first layer;
 - a light-active second layer situated on an outer surface of the laminate; and
 - a flexible permanent magnetic layer for releasable magnetic attachment of the laminate to a ferromagnetic surface; wherein the flexible permanent magnetic layer is the same as the first layer or is a third flexible layer attached to the carrier layer;

~~wherein the light-active second layer acts without external energizing to change the properties of incident light such that the light reflected by this layer has~~ is a reflective layer having signaling properties, and the size and shape of the flexible carrier first layer, the light-active second layer, and the flexible permanent magnetic layer are the same.
3. (Twice Amended) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second layer ~~is~~ has a pattern of light-active zones arranged locally in distributed zones.
14. (Thrice Amended) Method of manufacturing a laminate, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a first flexible carrier layer, a second light-active layer and a third flexible magnetic layer wherein the light-active second layer is a reflective layer having signaling properties, and the size and shape of the flexible carrier first layer, the light-active second layer, and the flexible permanent magnetic layer are the same;
 - b) permanently connecting the second light-active layer to one side of the first layer and the third magnetic layer to the other side of the first layer.
18. (Twice Amended) Method of manufacturing a laminate, comprising the steps of:

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS MADE

a) providing a flexible permanent magnetic first layer serving as carrier layer and for releasable magnetic attachment of the laminate to a ferromagnetic surface and a flexible second light-active layer;

b) permanently connecting the second light-active layer to one side of the first layer ~~and the third magnetic layer to the other side of the first layer~~ wherein the light-active second layer is a reflective layer having signaling properties and the size and shape of the first layer and the second layer are the same.